

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
Ad Hoc Issue Research and Action Team (IRA)
January 16, 2014 Minutes

The Issue Research and Action Team of the City of Mesa met on January 16th, 2014,
at 5:00pm at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St. Ste. 250.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cliff Moon, Chair
Denise Heap
Frank Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Ruth Giese

GUESTS

Karen Kurtz (by phone)

1. Call to Order.

Mr. Moon called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to IRA.

3. Approval of minutes from the December 19th, 2013 IRA meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Heap to approve the December 19th, 2013, Mr. Moon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Hear, discuss, and take action on the collaboration with Morrison Institute on the community survey.

Mr. Moon questioned if all of the board recommendations from the previous meeting were implemented in the survey. Ms. Giese advised that all but one, the recommendation to add 'gender identity' to the list of options under the discrimination types categories due to not having a definition at the time of the survey rollout. Ms. Giese announced that as of Monday, January 13th, 2014 over 435 surveys have been completed and no problems have been reported. A motion was made by Ms. Heap to request that Morrison Institute provide results of the community survey by Mid-February, Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Discuss and take action on the Mesa Speaks, Mesa Listens: Community Conversations on Discrimination series:

- Evaluating the success/lack of success of the dialogues (participant evaluation of dialogues).

Mr. Moon questioned Ms. Kurtz (who was participating by phone), third party consultant for the dialogue series, the best way to determine if they are successful with the dialogue series. In response, Ms. Kurtz advised to use an evaluation form which drives the point of what the board expected to get from the series. Ms. Kurtz explained that the purpose of the series should be driven from the data received from the survey, thus the evaluation questions would also depend on those results. Mr. Moon stated that he would research evaluation forms in order to present at the next meeting.

- Proposed schedule of date/times and locations.

Ms. Kurtz reiterated that the scheduling of the dialogues should not occur until the data has been received so that the series can reflect what is needed i.e. an educational forum, a testimonial forum, topics of

concern, etc. Ms. Kurtz also recommended that the team receive consultation on the direction with the dialogues from the surveyors as validate the data.

Ms. Heap expressed her concern that momentum may be lost if there is significant time between receiving the survey results and beginning planning on the dialogues. Ms. Kurtz clarified that her recommendation is not time driven as much as it is results driven. Plans for a dialogue series can be immediately after the results have been reviewed and the series could still occur within the proposed schedule of the board, but decisions on the content of the series should not be assumed at this time until the results have been presented by Morrison Institute. Ms. Giese advised that staff would still consider some tentative dates and locations in the event that the board proceeds.

- Publicity of events (names of community newspapers, newsletters, organizations, etc. to receive notices of the conversation and the language to be sent).

IRA members agreed to table this discussion until a later date.

6. Hear, discuss and take action on diversity speaker's bureau as a community resource.

Ms. Giese stated that they are in the design phase and once the application is complete it will be moved for the members to review. Once it is approved and finalized then the board would be responsible for promoting it. IRA members discussed many of the local partnerships that could help distribute the information. Ms. Heap advised that Toastmasters has a speaker's bureau with a disclosure that they could use for reference.

7. Discuss future agenda items, meeting dates, announcements, other housekeeping.

- Next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 20th, 2014 at 5:00pm.

A tentative meeting will also be scheduled for Wednesday, February 26th, 2014 at 5:00pm.

8. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator